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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 8.6.2023**

**on the financing of the annual action plan part I in favour of the Americas and the  
Caribbean for 2023**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the annual action plan part I in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean for 2023

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 23(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan part I in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean for 2023, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual programme part I, for 2023. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Americas and the Caribbean<sup>4</sup> for the period 2021-2027, which sets out the following priorities: 'Green Transition', 'Digital Transformation and Innovation', 'Sustainable and Inclusive Economy', 'Democratic Governance, Security and Migration', and 'Social Cohesion and Addressing Inequalities'.
- (4) The actions provided for in this Decision contribute to health resilience, social cohesion and addressing inequalities, in line with the priority 'Social Cohesion and Addressing Inequalities'.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme 'the Americas and the Caribbean' is to

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

<sup>4</sup> Decision C(2021)9356 of 13.12.2021.

contribute to the EU's overall strategic objectives for its external action, as laid out by the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Americas and the Caribbean for the period 2021-2027.

- (6) The action entitled 'Strengthening the Mexico's Regulatory System of Medicines and Vaccines (EU4Health)' aims to help strengthening Mexico's capacities to produce and distribute high quality vaccines and medicines, to ensure the diversification of global pharmaceutical production, improve global health security, the access for quality medicine for all and promote the success of pharmaceutical, biotech and med-tech based industries, with positive spills-over in Central America.
- (7) The action entitled 'Regional Programme on Inclusive Societies in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)' aims to tackle gender and other inequalities, reduce poverty and social exclusion, and enhance social cohesion within and between LAC countries by improving access to social rights, social services and justice for vulnerable groups; by contributing to more inclusive, accountable and transparent public institutions that promote equity driven and gender-responsive public finance models to reinforce social policies and protection systems; as well as by fostering new solutions and unlock investments that boost social innovation, resilience of social systems, and just, socially responsible and inclusive green and digital transitions.
- (8) The action entitled 'Regional Private Sector Development (III)' aims to support the sustainable and inclusive economic growth and job creation in the Caribbean Region, through among other the reinforcement of the private sector's diversification and competitiveness in the Caribbean, with a special focus on MSMEs including women and youth owned enterprises, as well as an enhancement of the trade and investment between the Caribbean and the EU in the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) assisting the Caribbean private sector to grow in a sustainable manner.
- (9) The action entitled 'Support to the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) phase IV 2024-2029' aims to support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and financial stability in the Caribbean, through the further deepening of the Caribbean-EU Partnership for governance, security and human development which will support Caribbean countries' efforts to strengthen the Caribbean regulatory frameworks on public finance management and adhere to international standards on among other AML (anti-money laundering), CTF (counter-terrorist financing) and good tax governance.
- (10) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (11) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions.
- (12) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation.

To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation<sup>5</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (13) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (14) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (15) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The action plan*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for the implementation of the annual action plan part 1 in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean for 2023, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘Strengthening the Mexico’s Regulatory System of Medicines and Vaccines (EU4Health)’, set out in Annex 1;
- (b) ‘Regional Programme on Inclusive Societies in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)’, set out in Annex 2;
- (c) ‘Regional Private Sector Development (III)’, set out in Annex 3;
- (d) ‘Support to the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Center (CARTAC) Phase VI 2024-2029’, set out in Annex 4.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023 is set at EUR 71 700 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- (1) General budget of the Union for 2023: budget line 14.020140: EUR 61 500 000;
- (2) General budget of the Union for 2023: budget line 14.020141: EUR 10 200 000.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

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<sup>5</sup> Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

*Article 3*  
*Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons*

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 2.3.2 of the Annex 1, point 4.3.1 of the Annex 2, point 4.3.1 of the Annex 3, and point 4.3.1 of the Annex 4.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes<sup>6</sup> to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation provided that these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 8.6.2023

*For the Commission*  
*Jutta URPILAINEN*  
*Member of the Commission*

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<sup>6</sup> These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.